

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) An information-processing method including:
  - receiving a message;
  - ascertaining whether the message is in a selected application format;
  - if the message is not in the selected application format:
    - routing the message to a next location; and
  - if the message is in the selected format:
    - routing the message to a selected application processor;
    - processing the message by the selected application processor; and
  - routing the message to the next location.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein receiving the message includes receiving a packet.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein receiving the packet includes receiving the packet from a network.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3, wherein receiving the packet from a network includes receiving the packet from a packet switched network.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein the network is the Internet.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein
  - ascertaining whether the message is in a selected application format includes ascertaining whether the message is encrypted; and
  - processing the message by the selected application processor includes decrypting the message by the selected application processor.
7. (Previously Presented) An information-processing system comprising:
  - a fabric configured for communication with a network;

a plurality of application services devices;

wherein the plurality of application service devices are configured to receive a plurality of unprocessed application-specific messages from the fabric;

wherein each unprocessed application-specific message is configured to be processed by a particular application; wherein the fabric is adapted to route each of the plurality of unprocessed application-specific messages to an application service device adapted to process the message with the particular application;

wherein the plurality of application service devices are further configured to process the unprocessed application-specific messages in parallel, wherein each unprocessed application-specific message is processed with the particular application for which it is configured, whereby a plurality of processed application-specific messages is produced; and

wherein the plurality of application service devices are further configured to send the each processed application-specific message to the fabric.

8. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 7, wherein each message comprises a packet.

9. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 8, wherein each application service device comprises a hardware state machine.

10. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 9, wherein the plurality of application service devices are included in a single integrated circuit.

11. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 7, wherein each application service device comprises a simple programmable processor.

12. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 7, wherein at least one of the plurality of application service devices comprises a plurality of interoperably configured distinct physical devices.

13. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 7, wherein at least one of the plurality of application service devices comprises an SSL/TLS processor.

14. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 7, wherein the plurality of unprocessed application-specific messages comprises an unprocessed application stream, and wherein the plurality of processed application-specific messages comprises a processed application stream.

15. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 14, wherein the application streams comprise an SSL/TLS connection between a web browser and a web server.

16. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 14, wherein the application streams comprise an e-mail transfer.

17. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 14, wherein the application streams comprise a virtual private networking communication.

18. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 14, wherein the application streams comprise a TCP offload engine communication.

19. (Previously Presented) An information-processing method, including:

receiving a message;

after receiving the message: ascertaining whether the message is susceptible to be processed by a particular application;

if the message is susceptible to be processed by the particular application:

routing the message to an application service device that is adapted to use the particular application to process the message;

after routing the message to the application service device: processing the message by the application service device using the particular application;

after processing the message: routing the message to a next location; and if the message is not an application-specific message: routing the message to the next location.

20. (Previously Presented) The information-processing method of Claim 19, wherein the particular application comprises a decryption application, and wherein a message susceptible to be processed by the particular application comprises an encrypted message.

21. (Previously Presented) The information-processing method of Claim 20, wherein the message is a packet.

22. (Previously Presented) An information-processing method, including:

- a first iteration of the method of Claim 19;

- a second iteration of the method of Claim 19;

wherein the receiving a message of the second iteration corresponds to the routing of the message to the next location of the first iteration, whereby the message is processed in a pipeline fashion.